

# **LB Sutton Children and Families Service - Practice Directive No. 1**

## **Issue date:**

**20<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

## **Target Group:**

**Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) for Looked After Children**

## **Subject:**

### **Permanence Plans – Looked After Children**

All looked after children are required to have a Permanence Plan by the time they have their second Child Care Review after becoming looked after. It is part of the IRO's role to ensure this Plan is in place by the second Review and to monitor this is happening for all their cases.

## **Action:**

IROs should ensure that Reviews consider all possible permanence options for the child including adoption if that is appropriate.

When doing this the IRO should advise review participants of the benefits (as demonstrated by research) of early planning for Looked After Children in terms of long term outcomes and the avoidance of 'drift'. The IRO should also bear in mind the regulatory requirement for all Looked After Children who have a Permanence Plan by the second review.

If the IRO identifies that a child does not have a permanence plan by the point of the second review and are concerned that this will not be completed as a matter of urgency with their guidance, they must raise this with the appropriate SW and manager and if necessary use the Escalation Procedure.